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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending April 30, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Good Week for Field Work: It was a great week for planting corn. Rye is now being cut and harvested throughout Pennsylvania. Hay is being cut in certain areas. Soil conditions are doing rather well with the rain received the previous weekend. Farmers are still hoping for more rain. Several operators are worried about some frost damage over last week as nighttime temperatures dropped down to the low 30's. There have been several reports of weevils sited in alfalfa, but most are not worried about treatment at this time. However, damage has been reported from mite activity. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, hauling and spreading manure, spraying pesticides, repairing fences and farm equipment, planting corn, tobacco beds, oats and potatoes.

conditions are the following: 4 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 6 percent excellent.

U.S. as of April 25, 2006: Occasional showers and muddy fields slowed Midwestern fieldwork from the Dakotas southeastward to the Ohio Valley. Locally heavy rain also fell from the Tennessee Valley and the southern Appalachians into the Mid-Atlantic States, aiding pastures, winter grains, and newly planted summer crops. Heavy rain developed across the Mid-Atlantic region on April 22.

Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the eastern three-fourths of the Nation, averaging over 9 degrees Fahrenheit above normal across the Mississippi Delta and neighboring areas of the Southeast, Corn Belt, and southern Great Plains. Warm weather in these areas encouraged rapid emergence of summer crops and winter wheat heading. Also, planting progress accelerated in these areas, despite moderate rainfall, as fields dried quickly in the warmth. After rainfall early in the week, drier conditions prevailed in the Corn Belt and were favorable for planting summer crops, while in the lower Ohio River and Tennessee River Valleys, planting advanced rapidly despite moderate to heavy rainfall. Storms along the Atlantic Coast brought much-needed relief from dry conditions.

Corn: Growers had planted 25 percent of their acreage, compared with 28 percent last year and 22 percent for the 5-year average. Despite moderate rainfall, planting progress accelerated in the Corn Belt and lower Ohio Valley. Planting progress continued to trail the normal pace in the eastern Corn Belt and northern Great Plains but was ahead of normal elsewhere.

Winter Wheat: Heading advanced to 26 percent, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 12 points ahead of normal. Heading was at or ahead of normal in all States.

Small Grains: Barley planting, at 18 percent complete, was 14 points behind last year and 10 points behind the 5-year average. Oat growers had planted 63 percent of their acreage, compared with 65 percent last year and 55 percent for the 5-year average. Spring planting progressed rapidly, with all States. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all States, with Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin over 20 points ahead of normal. Thirty-three percent of the crop had emerged, 5 points behind last year and 1 point behind normal.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 30, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	22	73	4

Crops: Spring plowing is now 82 percent complete, well ahead of last year at this time and the 5-year average. Planting for the corn crop is at 34 percent completion, slightly ahead of last year's pace. Twelve percent of the winter wheat crop is now heading, 5 percent above average. The great start of heading for wheat is mostly due to the crop condition, which is doing very well as 73 percent of the crop, was reported as good or excellent. Planting for oats is nearly complete at 89 percent as 44 percent of the crop has emerged. Both values, for planted and emerged, are ahead of last year and the 5-year average at this time. Sixty-eight percent of the oat crop is in either good or excellent condition. Potato planting is going slower than last year at 26 percent compared to the 47 percent planted a year ago. Tobacco beds are now 100 percent complete, just ahead of the average for this time of 98 percent.

Peaches and apples are currently in the pink stage. Peaches have now reached 100 percent pink and 98 percent full bloom. One hundred percent of apples are now pink, while the amount full bloom is at 89 percent. Peaches and apples are ahead of last year's pace and the 5-year average at this time for both the pink and full bloom stages.

Livestock: Farmers are now beginning to let their livestock out to pasture. Reports of poor growth have continued to be reported, even though pasture conditions are still improving. This week's pasture

Weather Data For Week Ending April 30, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 30, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	60	29	46	-5	0.40	2	2.94	-0.30	14	97	64	291
Franklin	72	28	49	-2	0.32	2	3.04	-0.49	13	92	60	321
Meadville	69	27	49	0	0.36	2	2.08	-1.22	10	97	74	308
Mercer	71	26	49	-3	0.91	2	3.44	0.06	13	97	64	320
Springboro	68	27	46	-5	0.29	2	3.75	0.60	13	68	31	252
Warren	71	26	46	-4	0.77	2	3.56	0.03	15	73	48	276
North Central												
Bradford Region	66	21	43	-4	0.57	1	3.04	-0.35	14	58	45	225
Emporium	71	25	47	-1	0.32	1	3.88	0.45	15	60	44	281
Kane	68	19	43	-5	0.54	2	3.03	-0.61	12	31	19	194
Laporte	62	28	47	-5	0.23	2	2.83	-0.44	13	57	15	242
Lock Haven	72	28	51	-2	0.14	2	2.84	-0.24	12	100	54	345
Port Allegany	69	22	44	-5	0.33	1	2.68	-0.47	11	48	29	226
Renovo	72	29	50	-3	0.22	2	2.57	-0.51	13	98	52	338
Ridgway	69	22	45	-3	0.51	2	3.32	-0.11	13	45	29	238
Stevenson Dam	71	29	50	3	0.33	1	2.56	-0.87	12	89	73	327
Towanda	70	27	48	-3	0.08	2	1.94	-0.96	10	67	25	276
Wellsboro	63	25	45	-3	0.13	2	2.72	0.37	12	48	33	222
Williamsport	70	30	51	-3	0.10	2	2.41	-0.82	11	119	50	366
Northeast												
Hawley	68	27	47	-3	0.76	2	3.88	0.45	10	44	24	221
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	69	29	50	-3	0.47	2	3.15	0.18	10	120	70	347
Susquehanna	65	28	47	-2	0.59	3	3.64	0.02	13	51	34	240
West Central												
Butler	71	28	49	-2	0.69	2	3.69	0.49	13	98	53	339
New Castle	73	29	51	1	0.59	2	3.51	0.48	13	142	110	386
Slippery Rock	72	28	50	2	0.67	3	3.55	0.41	14	117	90	355
Central												
Altoona/Blair	67	29	51	-3	0.13	2	1.81	-1.36	11	137	75	385
DuBois	66	24	48	-3	0.76	2	3.72	0.38	15	106	76	325
Lewistown	71	31	52	-3	0.31	2	3.11	0.16	15	133	52	386
Middletown	72	37	54	-2	0.19	3	3.16	-0.08	13	185	87	455
Prince Gallitzi	75	25	48	-3	0.55	2	3.35	-0.89	15	76	47	293
Selinsgrove	72	32	51	-2	0.24	2	3.35	0.17	13	101	41	346
State College	68	30	51	-1	0.29	2	2.61	-0.30	13	142	95	394
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	72	32	52	-2	0.25	3	3.19	-0.33	14	145	75	399
Lehighton	72	34	52	-2	0.31	3	3.39	0.12	16	102	39	337
Matamoras	72	28	48	-4	0.87	3	3.96	0.00	15	66	17	267
Tobyhanna	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	69	31	53	1	0.45	2	2.80	-0.42	13	198	135	460
Derry	68	31	51	0	0.46	2	3.80	0.54	13	129	91	371
Myersdale	65	26	47	-6	0.34	2	3.74	-0.21	15	55	13	266
Mount Pleasant	71	28	49	-1	0.45	2	3.44	-0.66	13	108	81	347
Pittsburgh Intl	70	30	53	-1	0.57	2	3.12	-0.03	12	192	120	446
Rector	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Waynesburg	72	29	51	-2	0.33	1	2.39	-1.08	13	137	84	385
South Central												
Biglerville	71	33	52	-4	0.46	2	3.45	0.09	13	161	63	428
Everett	70	30	50	-3	0.17	2	3.48	0.15	14	90	38	336
Hanover	73	32	52	-4	0.38	2	3.94	0.58	16	159	61	420
Shippensburg	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
South Mountain	68	29	49	-4	0.42	2	3.75	0.58	14	102	43	335
York	72	31	52	-4	0.27	2	3.63	0.04	13	156	55	411
Southeast												
Green Lane	72	35	53	-1	0.35	2	3.59	-0.11	13	140	76	398
Hamburg	73	35	53	2	0.26	3	3.57	-0.23	16	162	118	418
Hopewell	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	71	36	53	-2	0.22	3	3.71	0.28	13	164	90	428
Neshaminy Falls	72	33	52	-2	0.45	3	4.06	0.07	12	116	44	376
New Holland	73	33	53	-2	0.52	3	3.81	0.38	13	157	83	417
Philadelphia	74	41	56	0	0.36	3	3.72	0.10	10	236	125	523
Philadelphia NE	73	38	56	-2	0.45	3	3.76	0.14	12	224	113	506
Reading	72	35	54	1	0.21	3	4.01	0.20	14	169	107	430
Valley Forge Na	74	30	53	-3	0.58	3	3.33	-0.37	12	155	50	417
Willow Grove	71	36	54	1	0.50	2	2.40	-1.59	10	173	101	445

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County received 2" of rainfall last Saturday that was greatly needed. Some parts of the county also received 1/4" of rainfall on Tuesday night. This slowed field work up a little this week but producers did not mind since we received rainfall that benefited all of the crops.

Daytime temps were around 60 degrees and nighttime temps were in the 40's and but Wednesday into Thursday overnight temps was 30 degrees.

Apple blossoms are pretty close full bloom. Not sure if the nighttime temps affected the apple crop. Strawberries are in bloom.

Wheat and barley are growing now in height since we received rainfall. Some rye is being chopped for silage this week. Some wheat will be chopped next week. Hay crop is now growing since we had the rain.

Overall this week has been a nice week for our crops to improve due to the rainfall.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Lot of corn planted this week even though it was cool. Some light frost on several mornings did little damage to the fruit. The cool weather may have some influence on the apple pollination since they are nearing full bloom. Too early to tell if any damage done to the strawberries.

BERKS COUNTY, Theresa Tracey (FSA) - Excellent week for field work. Corn planting progressed. Some reports of weevils found in alfalfa.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Very good week for field work. Ryelage was chopped; burndown of corn fields continued, corn planting began in earnest.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It was a good week to get the crops planted. All the oats should be planted, now the farmers are working on getting the corn and potatoes planted.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - 0.25 inches of rainfall during the week. Lot of field work completed. It remains dry.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Expect much more planting activity this week. Some early corn planted. Soil still cold.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Corn planting progressing very rapidly under ideal soil conditions for planting. Any worked ground is rapidly drying out. Ryelage harvest is complete. Forage seedings are under stress from low soil moisture conditions. Reports of alfalfa weevil in spots but only a few instances of control materials applied. Time for first cutting forage harvest has arrived in many stands.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner - Many acres of new seeding and small grains planted in the past week. Many farmers have started planting corn. The weather has been ideal.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - We have seen some timothy damage from mite activity.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - Beautiful rains slowed the planting of corn and soybeans. Harvesting of rye is in full swing. Spraying fields for planting and planting crops resumed by mid week after the fields became fit. Pastures are looking great. Lancaster had light frost a couple of mornings last week, but things are ahead of schedule this year due to the dry weather earlier. I saw a field of soybeans that had germinated this morning.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Wet soil conditions kept most farmers out of the fields until late in the week. Rye has been chopped for silage. Alfalfa weevils are present, but will not likely need treatment. Corn planting will get into full swing this week with the good weather in the forecast. First cutting haylage will also get under way this week

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz (EXT) - Pastures, grass hay fields and small grain fields are showing poor growth due to lack of surface moisture. Barley is heading out at an average height of 18 inches. Straw will be at a premium.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton - Most seedings are completed. Hay and pasture looks short and needs some rain. Corn is starting to be planted.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - Cold frosty mornings are keeping the ground temperatures cool. I expect corn planting to begin in full force later this week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William c. Sheaffer - The rain that arrived last weekend was a boost to the crops; however, the cold nighttime temperatures slowed the effects of the rainfall. On Monday, temperatures in the low to middle 20's were somewhat common throughout the area. A few alfalfa stands are showing the effect of heavy weevil larvae feeding. The barley has begun to head, and time will tell the effect on the yield as a result of the hard freeze on Monday, April 24. Many farmers have taken advantage of the early growth of the pastures by having the cattle grazing. Also a few farmers have harvested rye as ryelage. A good week but too cool at night.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Unsettled week with some much-needed rain and more seasonable temperatures. Several mornings of frost did not appear to have done much damage. Corn and soybean planting has slowed waiting on warmer, drier conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 30, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	82	74	61
Corn, planted	34	30	18
Barley, heading or headed	47	26	26
Wheat, heading or headed	12	6	7
Oats, planted	89	85	65
Oats, emerged	44	26	27
Tobacco beds, planted	100	92	98
Potatoes, planted	26	47	28
Peaches, in pink	100	98	77
Peaches, in full bloom or past	98	86	66
Apples, in pink	100	72	63
Apples, in full bloom or past	89	58	52

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 30, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	3	24	60	13
Oats	0	2	32	61	5
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	17	66	15
Timothy clover stand	1	5	35	52	7
Pasture	4	12	35	43	6

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